

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes  
Thursday, September 17, 2015

**Present:** Kathy Bagley, Agnes Bolasevich, Lisa Galipo, Barbara Higbee, Henry Higbee, Henry Hornat, Kathi Liberman, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Chris Skowronek, Christine Taylor, Erica Texeira,

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February April 16, 2015 meeting were approved. Motion by Barbara Higbee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Claire Mehan.

**Old Business:**

- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported there is a balance of \$2,000 in our account. The ads in the Rare Reminder for coming season (2015-2016) will cost \$1,400. These are all full-page ads, a change from the mix of full- and half-page ads in the past. A motion was made by Lisa to allocate \$1,400 for these ads. Seconded by Barbara Higbee.
- **Committee Membership:** Kathi Liberman noted that we are still looking for at least one additional person to join SCAC.

**New Business:**

- **Mini-bus Trips Update:** At our April 16 meeting, Patricia (Trish) Garach, a resident of First Church Village, opened a discussion on the need for low cost entertainment/travel trips for seniors in Wethersfield. Kathy Bagley, Erica Texeira and Lisa Galipo, working with Curtin Transportation, developed a trial outing schedule to determine the needs and practicality of these trips. Their budget was presented to and accepted by the Town Council. The following trips are scheduled: Oct. 6, Lyman Orchards; Nov. 19, New Britain Museum of American Art; December 3, Wadsworth Atheneum. The cost for each trip is \$5 per person. The cost for each trip is \$5 per person. Initially the trips will be offered to residents of the Low Income Housing and First Church Village. Pick-up will be at each of those locations.

**Committee Reports:**

- Council Liaison no report
- Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reported
  - Renovations have begun on some of the family units.
  - CHFA grants have been accepted for various programs.
- Clergy: Pastor Chris Skowronek reported:
  - Pastor Greg Miller (Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church) is retiring.
- Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported
  - CRT Energy Assistance program will begin again in October.
  - Deadline for the Renters' Rebate Program is October 1.

- The State Veterans' Stand Down is scheduled for Sept. 18.
- Copies of the 2015 Inside the Dome Report were distributed. For more information, contact CT's Legislative Commission on Aging, State Capitol, Hartford, CT 06106; visit [www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa) or call 860-240-5200. Special attention was drawn to the following items within the report.
  - CARE Act (page 5): The CARE Act would inform and support informal caregivers when an individual goes into the hospital or rehab facility.
  - Variable Rate Electric Rates (page 8): This (Consumer Protection) bill limits the fixed customer charge that each electric distribution company can seek in its next rate case.
  - Livable Communities (page 5): Bonding money was allocated...to the Department of Rehabilitation Services to establish a grant program for older adults and persons with disabilities for home modifications and assistive technology.
  - Burial Expenses (page 10): [The State Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Biennium Budget] reduces burial allowances for Medicaid recipients from \$1,800 to \$1,400.
  - Medicare Part D Co-Pays (page 10): [The State Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Biennium Budget] eliminates Medicare Part D wraparound co-pays.
  - Handicapped Parking Spaces (page 11): [The State Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Biennium Budget] bans owners or lessees of a private parking area...to dump or place accumulated snow in a handicapped parking space.
  - Affordable and Supportive Housing (page 11): [The State Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Biennium Budget] provides new investment for the creation of affordable and supportive housing.
- People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported:
  - The WACPD (Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities) meeting was held on Sept. 16 at Town Hall.
  - Natalie Morrison's Therapeutic Recreational Programs are doing well. Members brought up concerns about DAR going to Big Y for an additional grocery store service.
- Wethersfield Seniors Club: Agnes Bolasevich reported:
  - There are presently 313 paid members in the Wethersfield Seniors Club. This does not include people with free membership (anyone over the age of 90; any past Presidents of the Club).
  - Plans are underway for the Christmas Luncheon for the Bingo players. [NOTE: See the report from Kathy Bagley on this topic.]
- Social Services/Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported:
  - Copies of the October issue of Wethersfield Senior Center News were distributed. Copies are available at the Community Center and various locations around town.
- Parks & Rec.: Kathy Bagley reported that a meeting had been held with members of the Seniors Club to discuss the possibility of combining the Sr. Club and Sr. Center memberships into one membership and eliminating the Sr. Club. Representatives from each of the major activities within the Sr. Club later met with Kathy and formed feasibility committee. They were asked to survey their groups and get their reactions to the proposal. Kathy will be meeting with the Bingo players on a Wednesday in October to explain the proposal.
- SCAC Educational Conference: Kathi Liberman asked that each member think about a topic

for the 2016 conference.

### **Other Business**

- Joe Mehan mentioned that several people had commented on the lack of landscaping around the entrances to the Community Center this year. He noted that nothing had been done to the plants around the building all summer. Since this building is a major source of community activities, could its maintenance be moved up the Priority List next year. Perhaps a volunteer program could be created similar to the Garden Angels that help at the historic homes in Olde Wethersfield. Kathy Bagley said the Facilities Maintenance Dept. should be contacted and that presently individuals looking to perform Community Service are assigned that task.

The next meeting is October 15, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Immediately followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee for the annual Education Seminar.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Higbee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Agnes Bolasevich. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Mehan, member At-Large